

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-03

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TAGS SREF ICEM

SUBJ: U S CONTRIBUTION TO LA PROGRAM OF THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL
COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN MIGRATION (ICEM)

REF STATE 217677

1. THE EMB DISCUSSED THE INFO REQUESTED BY THE DEPT WITH THE
ICEM DIRECTOR IN COLOMBIA, THE CHIEF OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES
DIV IN THE GOC MIN OF LABOR AND THE HEAD OF THE IMMIGRATION DIV
IN THE GOC MIN OF FORN RELATIONS.
2. ALL SOURCES CITED THE ICEM PROGRAM AS AN IMPORTANT CONTRI-
BUTOR TO COLOMBIA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THEY CREDITED THE ICEM
SELECTIVE MIGRATION PROGRAM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLASTIC,
METAL, TEXTILE, AND ARTISAN INDUSTRIES. IN ADDITION, THEY CLAIMED
THAT UNIV PROFESSORS OF EUROPEAN ORIGIN HAVE CONTRIBUTED SUB-
STANTIALLY TO THE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMS IN COLOMBIAN UNIVS.
3. THE FOLLOWING ARE REPLIES OF THESE SOURCES TO THE DEPT'S
SPECIFIC QUESTIONS RAISED IN PARA 6 REFTEL A. COLOMBIA HAS
A CONTINUING NEED FOR THE TYPES OF MIGRANTS AVAILABLE UNDER
THE ICEM PROGRAM. ACCORDING TO THE ICEM SOURCE, THERE WERE
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650 APPLICATIONS FROM COLOMBIAN FIRMS AND UNIVS FOR MIGRANT

FROM JAN TO SEP 73 OF WHICH 260 WERE FILLED. HE CITED THIS AS EVIDENCE THAT COLOMBIA DOES NOT HAVE A SUFFICIENT POOL OF PROFESSIONAL AND SKILLED LABOR TO MEET DEMANDS. B. NO FORMAL MECHANISM EXISTS TO DETERMINE THE NUMBER OF MIGRANTS REMAINING IN COLOMBIA. HOWEVER THE SOURCES ESTIMATED THAT OF THE 7,320 WHO HAVE BEEN PLACED SINCE 52, OVER 90 PERCENT HAVE REMAINED. THE ICEM DIRECTOR CLAIMED THAT MOST MIGRANTS QUICKLY IDENTIFY WITH THE NATIVE POPULATION, THEREBY AVOIDING THE IMMIGRANT LABEL WHICH QUOTE THESE PROFESSIONALS SOMEHOW FIND DEMANDING END QUOTE. C. THERE ARE NO OTHER OUTSIDE SOURCES OF SKILLED WORKERS AND PROFESSIONALS AVAILABLE. D. COLOMBIA'S LEVEL OF CONTRIBUTION TO THE ICEM PROGRAM IS LESS THAN TO OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGS. THE SOURCES STATED THAT EACH COUNTRY'S QUOTA, AT LEAST FOR ADMIN COSTS, IS ESTABLISHED BY ICEM HQS IN GENEVA, WITHOUT ANY APPARENT RELATIONSHIP TO THE LEVEL OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGS. E. IT IS DIFFICULT TO MEASURE THE DEGREE OF COLOMBIA INTEREST IN THE ICEM PROGRAM. WHILE THE SOURCES PRAISED ICEM'S CONTRIBUTION TO COLOMBIA THIS MAY REFLECT ONLY THEIR VESTED INTERESTS. ON THE OTHER HAND, A RECENT ESSAY CONTEST SPONSORED BY ICEM ON THE QUOTE INFLUENCE OF MIGRATION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF LA END QUOTE RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE NEWSPAPER COVERAGE. THE FACT THAT THE CONTRIBUTIONS ARE SET IN GENEVA MAY PERMIT THE GOC AND OTHER LA COUNTRIES TO AVOID DETERMINING A CONTRIBUTION COMMENSURATE WITH THEIR INTERESTS. THE ICEM SOURCE DISAGREED WITH THE FIGURES CITED BY THE DEPT IN PARA 5 OF REFTEL. HE CLAIMED THAT FOR CY74 COLOMBIA HAD BEEN ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE OVER \$50,000 INCLUDING APPROX \$28,000 FOR ADMIN COSTS \$15,000 FOR PER CAPITA PAYMENTS, \$2,350 FOR THE REFUGEE PROGRAM AND \$5,150 FOR THE GLOBAL LA PROGRAM. HE CLAIMED THAT THE 74 CONTRIBUTION WOULD BE SOMEWHAT ABOVE THE 73 LEVEL. THE MIN OF FORN RELATIONS SOURCE SUBSTANTIALLY CONFIRMED THESE FIGURES. IN ADDITION, BOTH SOURCES SAID THAT THE GOC PROVIDES ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE TO THE MIGRANTS IN THE FORM OF FREE INTERNAL TRANSPORTATION AND LODGING FOR A LIMITED PERIOD. F. THE SOURCES DOUBTED THAT COLOMBIA WOULD CONSIDER A HIGHER CONTRIBUTION FOR 74 THAN THAT CITED IN E ABOVE. WHILE AGREEING THAT THE COLOMBIAN CONTRIBUTION IS RATHER LOW, THEY POINTED OUT THAT THE MIN OF FOREIGN RELATIONS BUDGET IN WHICH THE ICEM CONTRIBUTION IS INCLUDED, IS ALREADY ONE OF THE SMALLEST BUDGETS OF THE GOC. G. AS STATED IN PARA 2 MIGRANTS ARE DEEMED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO HAVE MADE A CONSIDERABLE CONTRIBUTION TO COLOMBIA'S ECONOMIC PROGRESS. IT WOULD THEREFORE APPEAR LIKELY THAT A CURTAILMENT OF THE SELECTIVE MIGRANT PROGRAM COULD HAVE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS. THE SOURCES CLAIMED THAT ICEM HAS CONTRIBUTED TO COLOMBIA'S OVERALL DEVELOPMENT IN OTHER WAYS, I.E., IN 71, ICEM ASSISTED THE GOC IN RATIONALIZING ITS INTERNAL MIGRATION PROBLEM - INVOLVING PRINCIPALLY THE HARVESTING OF COTTON; ICEM IS ASSISTING COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA IN THE DOCUMENTATION

OF MIGRANTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES; AN ICEM EXPERT IS SCHEDULED TO ASSIST THE MIN OF LAB TO ESTABLISH A DIV OF INTERNAL MIGRATION IN ASSOCIATION WITH A REORGANIZATION OF THE MIN IN 74; AND THE MIN OF FOREIGN RELATIONS IS SEEKING ICEM ASSISTANCE IN ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE IMMIGRATION POLICY BETWEEN COLOMBIA AND OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. ALL OF THESE PROGRAMS, ACCORDING TO THE SOURCES WOULD BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY A PROGRAM REDUCTION. H. SEE G ABOVE.

4. REF PARA 8 REFTTEL, ICEM DIRECTOR SAID THAT ICEM HAS INITIATED REFORMS INCLUDING A REDUCTION IN THE COLOMBIAN STAFF FROM 22 TO 16.

5. EMB ASSESSMENT: INSPITE OF THE CLAIMS OF THE SOURCES THAT THE CONTRIBUTION OF COLOMBIA TO
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